



50,000 pounds of venison to families in Michigan

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A Letter of Thanks from the President of Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger

Dear Friends of M.S.A.H.,

Another hunting season has passed us by and we begin to prepare for the 2004-2005 season. Many things must happen "behind the scenes", for M.S.A.H. to be ready to take on this new challenge. First, we must get all our processors on board for the new season and get them all the needed paperwork to make this year a success. Then, we must get our Fact Sheets out to the hunters, so they know where to take their venison harvest that they wish to donate. Finally, our Board will decide on what outdoor shows and functions that we will attend so we can begin to organize for them. The one thing that is the constant in the equation, year after year, is Michigan's hungry families and the need for more meat at the food banks. Meat is one of the most needed and least obtained items that the food banks receive. It is because of the donations of Sportsmen and Sportswomen, like yourself, that a renewable resource (mostly venison) is being utilized to help lower then need for meat at the food banks.

Last season, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger is proud to say we helped facilitate the processing of over 50,000 pounds of venison; which equates to approximately 200,000 meals for the hungry. Canned goods were donated to the tune of over 52,000 pounds as well. Monetary needs are just being barely met each year. Hunger is a year around thing, not just during the hunting season. It is generous people like you that help us to make it year after year.

Processing the deer is the biggest expense we have; but no matter how close we cut it each year, GOD sees to it that we make it and have just enough money. We have yet to turn away any venison donations for the lack of money.

We are in the process of getting a completely voluntary \$1.00 Point of Purchase donation when people go to get their hunting and/or fishing licenses. We hope we can count on your support when it gets to the State Legislature. This will be the much needed shot in the arm for our organization providing us more funds so we can process more and more venison and be able to feed more and more nutritious venison meat to Michigan's hungry.

M.S.A.H., a 501©3 tax exempt organization is board driven by individual and sporting groups that volunteer their time and energy to meet our goals.

Please help us make our 2004-2005 year a success! Become a member if your not, or give a gift of membership. Monetary gifts are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Check out our website: www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org for more information about our organization.

Sincerely,

Louis M. Krick, President

75 million pounds of food....where does it go??????

The food goes to many people in our state and probably not who would picture. The picture of hunger in Michigan is 816,603 children who received school lunch programs. It is the single parent working two jobs to support a family on minimum wage. It is the senior citizen who receives \$600 a month from Social Security to pay for housing, utilities, medicine and food if there is money left over. The picture is not what you would normally think...the picture could be that person who served you a hamburger at the local fast food restaurant, a class mate of your child in school or maybe your neighbor. The donations that the food bank network in Michigan receive is critical to meet the needs of those in our communities.

The food that is donated through local food drives, companies and those who support Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger is distributed to all 83 counties in Michigan through the food banking network. The food banking network in Michigan consists of many different levels of support and services. To understand how you can help those in our communities it helps to understand how the network supports each other and then in turn each community it serves.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) located in Lansing, is the state association for food banks in Michigan. The role of FBCM is to provide education, advocacy and financial assistance to the food banking network in Michigan. FBCM has 12 member food banks that it works directly with funding, food and advocacy. Each of those 12 member food banks has a "service territory" in Michigan that it covers with providing direct assistance to the counties that it serves. An example is Second Harvest Food Bank of West Michigan located in Comstock Park. They have a service territory of 40 counties that are primarily the west side of the state and the entire upper peninsula. This food bank then has 3 local food banks and 3 branch warehouses that in turn deliver food to smaller food banks or as we call them agencies such as pantries, kitchens and shelters in the 40 counties they serve.

People wonder why would we have such an elaborate system set up. This system enables the food banking network to accept very large loads of products such as 40,000 pounds of potatoes or truckloads of applesauce, tuna fish or noodles. The agencies in most counties cannot handle a whole truck load of product. Most pantries are in churches, or local community centers and they are just not set up to handle vast amounts of product at one time. That is why there is such a food banking network in Michigan. In 2003 the Michigan food banking network distributed about 75 million pounds of food—the equivalent of 75 million meals. This food is desperately needed for the families throughout Michigan that turn to food banks every day. It is estimated that in 2004 that more than 950,000 people will need to get some form of food assistance. If you would like more information about the food banking network in Michigan please visit the Food Bank Council of Michigan's website at www.fbcmich.org to locate a food bank in your community.